(d) The Government is fully seized of the incidence of industrial sickness among SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units, which *inter-alia* include institutional mechanism in the form of State-level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs), Special Rehabilitation Cells in banks and State Financial Institutions, and elaborate guidelines issued by the RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, the then Chairman of Indian Banks' Association, the RBI has drawn up revised guidelines for rehabilitation of sick SSI units, which include *inter-alia* change in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding on their viability, etc. The RBI has circulated the revised guidelines on 16th January, 2002 to all the banks for implementation.

SSI in Assam

1310. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the potentialities of Small Scale Industries in Assam;

(b) whether Government have studied about it;

(c) what new possibilities are there to expand 'Muga' and 'Gudia' small scale silk industries in the State; and

(d) whether Government are thinking of creating new avenues and infrastructure to develop these industries there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) As per potentiality survey conducted by Small Industries Service Institute, Guwahati, the State has potential for small scale industries units in Horticulture industries, plywood, multi-fibre density based wooden products, silk textiles, hosiery and readymade garments, steel fabrication, auto and bicycle components etc.

(c) and (d) Non-mulberry silk Muga and Eridi (gudia) have enough potentialities for growth in view of preference shown by certain customers both in India and abroad. For their development,

Central Silk Board is executing two special SWARNAJAYANTI GRAM SWAROJGAR YOJANA (SGSY) Projects in the name of "Sonali Sutha Prakalpa" at a total cost of Rs. 9.72 crore. A third Project on "Weaving and Marketing of Silk Products" of Rs. 9.48 crore is also being implemented for a period of four years commencing from 2001-02. The Government of Assam is also actively considering creating of new avenues and infrastructure to develop these industries.

Impact of removal of quantitative restrictions on SSI

1311. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the impact of dismantling of quantitative import controls on the small scale industry; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government is constantly monitoring the impact of dismantling of quantitative import controls on the economy including the small scale industry (SSI) in the country. While the removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) have exposed the SSI to greater competition, there has not been any surge in imports as a consequence of this step. The small scale industry in India have enough competitive strengths to withstand the impact of dismantling of quantitative import controls. Even after the removal of QRs, protection to the industries is available in the form of raising custom duties upto the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties, taking safeguards measures in case of surge in imports, etc.

Dereservation of some items in the interest of SSI

1312. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to dereserve more items in some sectors;